

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information recording/reproducing apparatus for recording an information signal in units of predetermined block length on a recording medium which has previously been formed with prebits associated with recording timings, said apparatus comprising:

a reader for reading recorded information from said recording medium to generate a read signal;

a prebit detector for detecting the prebits from the read signal to generate a prebit detection signal;

a recording timing signal detector for detecting a block signal indicative of a recording timing for the information signal based on the prebit detection signal;

an auxiliary recording timing signal generator for generating a pulse signal having the same period as the block length by using a reference clock signal, and outputting the pulse signal as an auxiliary block signal; and

a recording controller for recording the information signal on said recording medium at a recording timing in accordance with the block signal when the prebit detection signal is normal, and for recording the information signal on said recording medium at a recording timing in accordance with the auxiliary block signal when the prebit detection signal is defective.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An information recording/reproducing apparatus for recording an information signal in units of predetermined block length on a recording medium

which has previously been formed with prepits associated with recording timings, said apparatus comprising:

a reader for reading recorded information from said recording medium to generate a read signal;

a prepit detector for detecting the prepits from the read signal to generate a prepit detection signal;

a recording timing signal detector for detecting a block signal indicative of a recording timing for the information signal based on the prepit detection signal;

an auxiliary recording timing signal generator for generating a pulse signal having the same period as the block length, and outputting the pulse signal as an auxiliary block signal;

a recording controller for recording the information signal on said recording medium at a recording timing in accordance with the block signal when the prepit detection signal is normal, and for recording the information signal on said recording medium at a recording timing in accordance with the auxiliary block signal when the prepit detection signal is defective; and

An information recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising  
a prepit defect determining part for determining whether or not the prepit detection signal is defective.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An information recording/reproducing apparatus for recording an information signal in units of predetermined block length on a recording medium which has previously been formed with prepits associated with recording timings, said apparatus comprising:

a reader for reading recorded information from said recording medium to generate a read signal;

a prepit detector for detecting the prepits from the read signal to generate a prepit detection signal;

a recording timing signal detector for detecting a block signal indicative of a recording timing for the information signal based on the prepit detection signal;

an auxiliary recording timing signal generator for generating a pulse signal having the same period as the block length, and outputting the pulse signal as an auxiliary block signal; and

a recording controller for recording the information signal on said recording medium at a recording timing in accordance with the block signal when the prepit detection signal is normal, and for recording the information signal on said recording medium at a recording timing in accordance with the auxiliary block signal when the prepit detection signal is defective

~~An information recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 1~~, wherein said auxiliary recording timing signal generator comprises:

a PLL circuit for generating a clock signal at a predetermined frequency, synchronized in phase to the prepit detection signal; and

a frequency division counter for dividing the clock signal by a predetermined number to generate a divided clock signal as the auxiliary block signal.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An information recording/reproducing apparatus for recording an information signal in units of predetermined block length on a recording medium

which has previously been formed with prepits associated with recording timings, said apparatus comprising:

a reader for reading recorded information from said recording medium to generate a read signal;

a prepit detector for detecting the prepits from the read signal to generate a prepit detection signal;

a recording timing signal detector for detecting a block signal indicative of a recording timing for the information signal based on the prepit detection signal;

an auxiliary recording timing signal generator for generating a pulse signal having the same period as the block length, and outputting the pulse signal as an auxiliary block signal; and

a recording controller for recording the information signal on said recording medium at a recording timing in accordance with the block signal when the prepit detection signal is normal, and for recording the information signal on said recording medium at a recording timing in accordance with the auxiliary block signal when the prepit detection signal is defective

~~An information recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 1~~, wherein said recording controller records the information signal on said recording medium at a recording timing in accordance with the auxiliary block signal when the information signal is recorded on an unrecorded track adjacent to a recorded region on said recording medium.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An information recording/reproducing apparatus for recording an information signal in units of predetermined block length on a recording medium

which has previously been formed with prepits associated with recording timings, said apparatus comprising:

a reader for reading recorded information from said recording medium to generate a read signal;

a prepit detector for detecting the prepits from the read signal to generate a prepit detection signal;

a recording timing signal detector for detecting a block signal indicative of a recording timing for the information signal based on the prepit detection signal;

an auxiliary recording timing signal generator for generating a pulse signal having the same period as the block length, and outputting the pulse signal as an auxiliary block signal; and

a recording controller for recording the information signal on said recording medium at a recording timing in accordance with the block signal when the prepit detection signal is normal, and for recording the information signal on said recording medium at a recording timing in accordance with the auxiliary block signal when the prepit detection signal is defective

~~An information recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:~~

said recording medium is a recording disc which is previously provided with an OPC area for performing a trial write in determining light power of a recording laser beam, and an emboss portion for recording information related to copy protection, and

said recording controller records the OPC area or the emboss portion at a recording timing in accordance with the auxiliary block signal.